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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ** NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1985

EDITED BY: ROD GOWEN
CHAIRMAN: DICK WAGNER
V/CHAIRMAN/SEC: VINCE LYON
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: LAURA GOWEN

MEETING

The NOVEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 1985

at: 7:30 P. M.

in: COMMUNITY ROOM

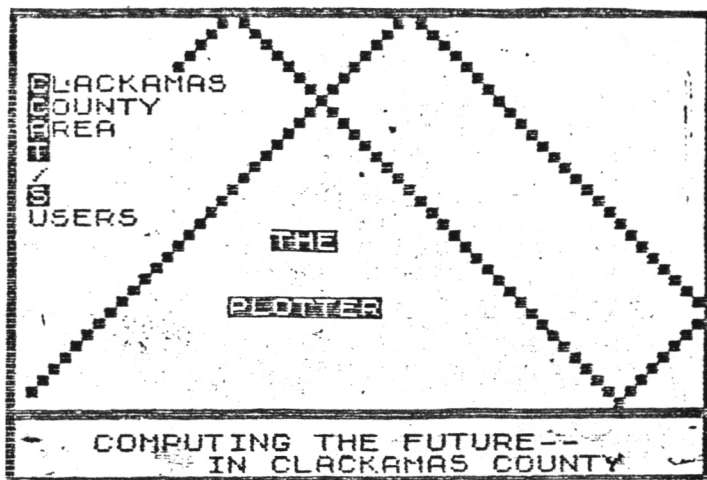
FAR WEST FEDERAL S&L

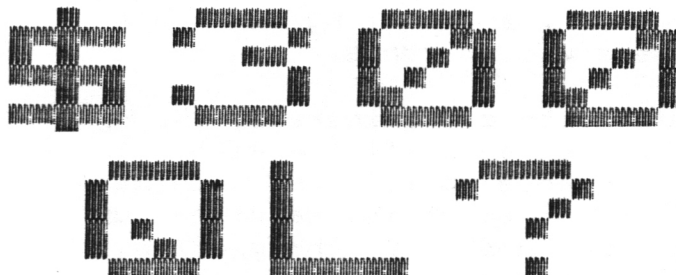
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CTR

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FIND IN THIS
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SINCLAIR RESEARCH HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 1985, THEY WILL LET ALL DEALERS IN THE US SELL THE QL AND ALL OF THE RELATED PRODUCTS.

YOUR LOCAL DEALER WILL BE:

RMG ENTERPRISES

(SEE AD IN THIS NEWSLETTER.)
THIS NEWS CAME AS A SUPRISE TO MOST OF THE DEALERS THAT WE SPOKE TO AROUND THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK. MARY REINMAN OF SINCLAIR, ALSO SAID THAT SINCLAIR WOULD CONTINUE TO SELL THE QL BY MAIL, BUT THAT THEY WOULD NOT SELL THE POCKET FLATSCREEN TV. THAT ITEM WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH ALL OF THE DEALERS THAT WISH TO SELL IT ALONG WITH THE QL AND SOFTWARE.

THIS NEWS COMES ON THE HEELS OF THE NEWS THAT SINCLAIR IS GOING TO BE RELEASING THE NEW 128K SPECTRUM SOMETIME IN JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE A MOVE THAT WILL HELP ALL OF US AS WELL AS SINCLAIR.

SECRETAR'S
SECRETS

The OCTOBER meeting was held on OCTOBER 5, 1985, at the above location. Our Chairman, DICK WAGNER, called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. As this column serves as our Secretaries Report, the next order of business was the Treasurers' report. One of the questions brought up was in reference to the cost of putting out our monthly newsletter. Editor Rod Gowen told the group that the cost per newsletter for printing and mailing an 8 page issue was 58 cents.

After the preliminaries, the Chairman asked if the people in attendance would stand and introduce themselves. We signed up one new member at the meeting, and had 4 new people there to see what we were all about.

New business-What to do about poor attendance? We discussed this problem and finally decided that we would definitely have more young people in our midst if the meeting night were again to be Friday night. It was moved and seconded and passed by vote, that we try the second Friday for the next three months. The question will be on the ballot with the December PLOTTER. REMEMBER! ALL BALLOTS MUST BE IN AND COUNTED BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH!!

Business meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

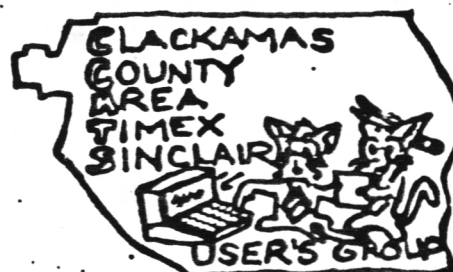
There were a lot of new things to see after the meeting. TIM WOODS had the Zebra DD System from Portugal. ROD GOWEN had the Amdek Amdisk III 3" DD to see as well as a new EPROM for the Gorilla Banana printer to change the character set.

FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK

Another year almost gone, and I hope that it has been a good one for most of you. I think that from the Editors' point of view, the job of putting together this newsletter has become a small bit easier. Not so much because of my getting more help with the job, but because I have had better equipment and tools with which to do the job. After having done the job for almost 3 years now, I am as I may have mentioned before, going to back off and let someone else take on the responsibilities that go with this job.

I do want to thank all of those who, over the past 3 years, have helped out in any way with THE PLOTTER. You will not be able to get rid of my writing though, as I intend to do a lot more of it in the future, here as well as in other publications.

I do hope that the general improvements made in style and format to THE PLOTTER over the past year or so have not gone unnoticed. It is really hard to judge how one is doing without the input of others. We would really like to print LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, the only problem is, we don't get any letters to print! Hey! All you readers out there! How about dropping a quick line to the EDITOR?



COMMENTS ON COMPUERVE

Rod Gowen
CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for COMPUERVE
INFORMATION SERVICE. The defin-
ition is for those of you not
familiar with the service.

I am, in this column, going to
let all of you know what the
T/S world is doing outside of
our own local area is all about.
I hope that it will help you in
some small way.

Here we go again! I do hope that
you have been enjoying our lit-
tle forays into the world of CIS.
I only wish that I could afford
to spend as much time on the ser-
vice as I would like to. But, at
\$6.50/hour, I must limit my time.

I will admit, a lot of the ban-
ter on the T/S FORUM is repetat-
ive. But, every so often, a new
and really interesting subject
is brought up. Just this week,
for instance, Barry Carter,
author of the MTERM II MANUAL,
finally found the code to allow
uploads and downloads working
programs to the forum data lib-
rary! Now everyone wants the
code to be able to transmit the
same kind of things to other TS
users.

There is, of course, still a lot
of talk about DD systems. There
was even a new one discussed,
the LARKEN DD from Canada. It
sells for \$89.95 US. It will
only support 1 drive and will
only format for 80K per side.
More on the LARKEN was in #15
TS HORIZONS.

I will say that if all you want
to do is look into the TIMEX
FORUM, I think that the service
would, to me at least, not be
worth the \$6/hr online time
charge plus the \$.50/hr sur-
charge. If however, you make use
of a few of the several hundred
other services available, then I
believe the cost to be worth
every cent of the cost.

As there are so many services
offered on CIS, I am, with this
issue, and future issues, going
to list a very small portion of
the CIS INDEX each month. We
now bring you the second inst-
allment:

Popular Science.....Go PSC
Autos, buying:
StL Post-Dispatch..Go SPD-1002
Aviation:
ASI Monitor.....Go ASI-10
EMI Flight Planning.....Go EMI
NWS Aviation Weather....Go AUX
Official Airline Guide..Go OAG
Peak Delay Guide.....Go PDG
Aviation Safety Inst:....Go ASI
Aviation (SIG):.....Go SFP-6
Baseball (AP wire):....Go APN-16
Basic CompuServe:.....Go PCS-73
Beef prices:.....Go CNS-12
Belmont Golf Association:Go BEL
Belmont's golf (SIG):Go HOM-129
Better Homes & Gardens:...Go BHG
Billing, general:.....Go CIS-4
Billing, reviewing:...Go CIS-176
Biorhythms:.....Go GAM-29
Blackjack game:.....Go GAM-13
Bliss language:.....Go PCS-74
Book, ordering:
Fifth Avenue Shopper....Go FTH
Howard Sams' Books.....Go SAM
World Book Encyclopedia.Go UBE
Boston, Shawmut Bank:....Go SHU
Bridge game:.....Go GAM-18
Broadcasting:.....Go NPR
Brokerage:.....Go UMC
Budgeting, home:
Gov't
CompuServe.....Go HOM-80
Bulletin board:.....Go HOM-23
Business, farming:....Go SFP-10
Business Information Wire:G BIW
Business news:
AP Viewdata Wire.....Go APV
Business wire.....Go TBW
Canadian, U.S., Int'l...Go BIW

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CompuServe.....Go FIN-10
 Middlesex Daily.....Go MDN
 StL Post-Dispatch..Go SPD-1005
 Business Outlook:.....Go RLA
 Business, small:.....Go SBR
 CB Interest Group:.....Go HOM-9
 CB Radio simulation:
 Access to.....Go HOM-21
 Instructions.....Go HOM-19
 Introduction.....Go HOM-18
 CB Society:.....Go CUP
 CEMSIG:.....Go CEM-450
 CompuServe command:...Go CIS-21
 CP/M user's group:....Go PCS-47
 Cabl
 Canning, home:.....Go GPO-11
 Car care:.....Go PSC
 Cassettes, radio:.....Go NPR
 Cassette tapes for sale:..Go NPR
 Cattle prices:.....Go CNS-12
 Changing terminal type:Go CIS-9
 Changing password:...Go CIS-175
 Charges, monthly:....Go CIS-176
 Checking, banking:....Go HOM-45
 Childrens' games:.....Go TMC-27
 Classified ads:
 StL Post-Dispatch..Go SPD-1002
 Clothing, fashion:.....Go GAN
 Clothing, sport:.....Go HAN
 Cocoa news:.....Go CNS-15
 Coffee news:.....Go CNS-15
 Color computer (SIG):Go PCS-126
 Color graphics:.....Go CIS-91
 Columbus area:
 Banks.....Go HOM-45
 Chamber of Commerce.....Go CCC
 Education.....Go CCC
 SIG.....Go CCC-150
 Command level:.....Go PCS-71
 Commentaries:
 Financial.....Go RLA
 Investment.....Go INV
 Video.....Go VIF

More on CIS next time.

#####

BITS & BYTES

Here we go, more news on the
 TS scene-----

ENGLISH MICRO CONNECTION-has a new 30+ page catalog out. It is 8 1/2 x 11 inch and includes a lot of new products. Bob Dyl says that due to problems with delivery and availability, he will no longer be carrying the Portuguese Timex disk drive system. He is now selling and highly recommending the Kempston DD system.

TS HORIZONS-#15 has finally arrived! The Editor sends his sincerest apologies to all, and thanks all for being patient with them. I personally think that #15 was well worth waiting for. I think that you will too.

RESEARCH SERVICE LABS-has still not responded to an inquiry by Dennis Jurries as to whether they would loan him a Disk Drive I/F for him to review. He would run the reviews in this newsletter and possibly, in TIME DESIGNS magazine. I would think that it would be good PR, not to mention the free advertising.

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-is celebrating it's first anniversary with the current issue. We have been impressed with the improvements made over the past 6 issues and we hope to see them continue to improve and grow. CONGRATULATIONS TIM!

SINCLAIR RESEARCH-has finally confirmed, through Nigel Searle, that they are going to set up dealerships for, or at least sell to dealers, the QL. Executive Workshop and RMG Enterprises have received a letter offering the QL for \$300 retail. RMG is going to be your local dealer as soon as the machines can be brought in.

#####

RAMEX INTERNATIONAL-now has a less expensive DD system for sale. It uses the same board with a new DOS by Kemston. They wrote the DOS for the Millenia-K and for the Spectrum and QL DD systems in England. The new system also uses the Amdek Amdisk III dual DD. It sells for \$300. RMG does NOT handle it but Rod can give you more info.

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-from Canada is offering a DD system for the 2068. Seems like once they started showing up, there is no stopping the DD revolution! This one is pretty basic, and as reported in the Comments On Computer column, it is going for \$90 US. It does, however, only support One drive. Otherwise all reports say that it is very well made.

I know that there is a lot more news out there, but this is all that we have room for this month! I've waited a long time to say that! Til next time....

~~~~~

## LOAD/SAVE METER

by: M. J. RAYMOND

Finding some time on my hands this summer, I decided to do something about the load problems on my T/S 1000.

Looking through the Radio Shack semiconductor guide, I found a circuit for an easy VU Meter. With only a few changes and an hour or two with a soldering iron, this could be a useful addition to your computer. Construction of the circuit is easy and straightforward. I changed the resistors to variable ones to provide for easy adjustment. The circuit in the book is for 0 volts to 10 volts which is a little high for our needs. The power leads connect directly to the 9 volt input to the computer. The signal input is soldered to the tape inputs and that is all there is to it!

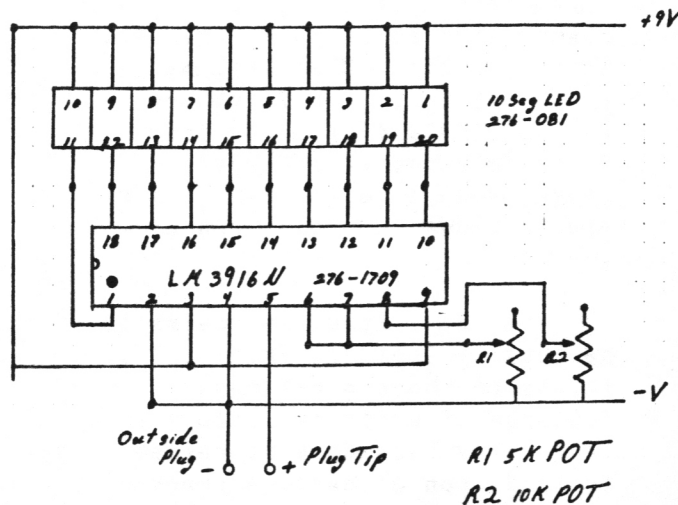
After connecting up the leads, it will help to do a little experimenting. First adjust R1 so that the loudest volume lights the last light on the bar graph. This can be done without using the LOAD on the computer, but it has to be turned on. R2 controls the brightness of the display. Set this where you like. Now, close up the case. Try LOADING a program several times to find the max. and min. volume that the computer will LOAD at. Mark these limits on the bar graph and as long as you maintain the volume between the marks you should have a good LOAD.

I have found this circuit not only useful in LOADING but it also helped to align the heads on my two recorders.

### PARTS LIST:

|              |               |         |
|--------------|---------------|---------|
| 1-RS276-150  | Circuit brd   | \$ .79  |
| 1-RS276-1991 | 20Pin Socket  | .59     |
| 1-RS276-1992 | 18Pin Socket  | .49     |
| 1-RS276-081  | 10 Section    |         |
|              | LED Bar Graph | 3.00    |
| 1-RS276-1709 | LM3916N IC    | 2.99    |
| 1-----       | 5K Variable   |         |
|              | Resistor      | .59     |
| 1-----       | 10K Variable  |         |
|              | Resistor      | .59     |
| 10 in.-----  | Light Wire    |         |
|              | from Work     |         |
|              | Bench         |         |
| 2 in.-----   | Solder from   |         |
|              | Work Bench    |         |
| =====        |               |         |
| TOTAL        |               | \$10.00 |

(All parts listed are available from your local Radio Shack.)





## THE MONSTER

It sits there, like a grinning idiot savant, awaiting his master's order. A direction, any direction, will do. A command, a directive, on an impulse, on a whim. A stroke of the key. It awaits, patiently, it's master's desire.

And I wonder, as I sit here, lord and master, waiting for a thought, a need, a sudden flash of insight, something to command forth a power greater than all the power of any forgotten potentate, any king, any soul who ever walked the earth in that predawn time we call B.C. (Before Computers). Yes, I wonder. What lies behind the simple grinning mask of that magic box that transforms that esoteric language of ones and zeroes into symbols that a common man, such as myself, may understand?

And I wonder, what magical processes are going on inside that unfathomable mind that hides, somewhere, just beneath the face that misrepresents itself, so innocuously, as a keyboard? What is it thinking? What is it plotting? What will be it's next trick? To flick off, in the middle of a large program? To suddenly and mysteriously dump a full file? Or merely to refuse to load, run or save?

Yes, my friend, it claims to be totally logical, infallible, immune to those great human failings of error and inconsistency. Why then does it refuse to load, run or save, a program

that was created and typed in perfectly, by a skilled and flawless operator? Could it be trying to tell me something? Do I really want to know? Or would knowing dupe me into making the very error that it has tried, (unsuccessfully), to convince me I've already made? Would it then not stand alone on it's lonely throne of perfection?

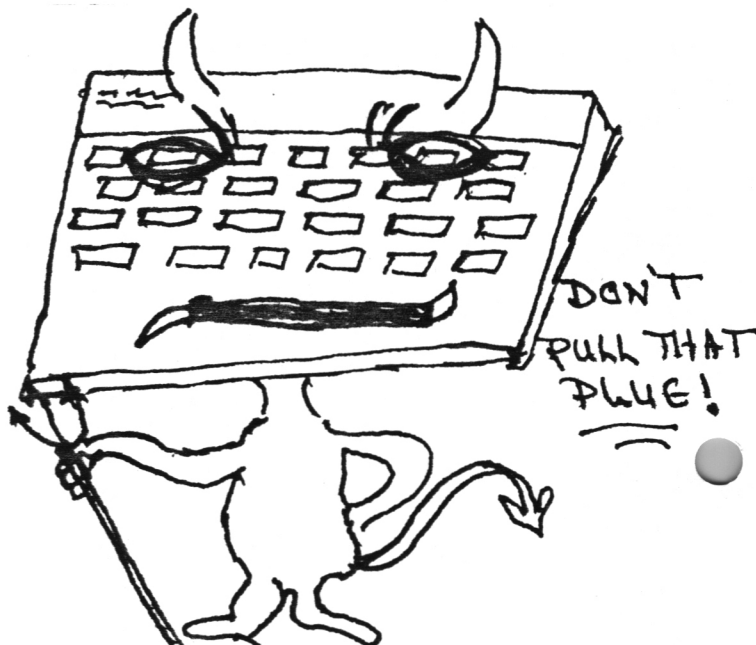
Somewhere, deep in the hidden recesses of it's devious mind, lies the answer. An answer so arcane, so mysterious, that to know it might bring instant and devastating retribution from the great God "HIGH-TECH".

And so, my friend, to protect myself, to protect all of mankind from an unknowable and untenable fate, I am forced to commit the grossest of sacrilege. I must remove the source of power to this awesome creature.

There! Alas, 'tis done! Now we are safe. We will never know the answer, but we are safe. You are safe, I have saved you, and you will never know.

Darrell R. Smith, Sr.  
(Copyright 1985)

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# SCROLLING BULLETIN BOARDS

by DICK WAGNER

Moving message type programs are interesting to people, because of the question "How do you do that?" Of course, current TV advertising has us expecting fantastic graphics, but we can program our TS 1000/1500 computers to do interesting message writing.

Horizontal and vertical scrolling small characters is just about our limit. Some variations such as background, framing, flashing, etc all add interest.

I have several programs based on material from some issues of Syncrosette magazine (now out of business) that should delight the experimenter. These will be published at times in THE PLOTTER. Keep them in your program file for reference as you won't find them in books.

The first program will produce large letter words in an upward scroll. Marquee type message presentation (horizontal scroll) will come later. I even have a program that splits the 32 character message in the middle and scrolls right and left at the same time! One program for long messages will encompass some machine language. A loader program plus the MC input, and a means for error correcting will be included. This is not MC programming so it is really like inputting BASIC that you copy.

The BIG SCROLL program following has a limit of 8 characters per word but will accept many words. It is slow as it shapes each character. The message is continuously repeated but it reforms the letters each time.

```
5 REM Scroll message with big
  letters
10 LET S=1
20 LET G=4
30 PRINT AT 10,0;"TYPE IN A ME
SSAGE."
40 INPUT B$
50 LET E$=B$+" "
60 CLS
```

```
100 GO SUB 1000
110 FOR I=1 TO G
120 REM change this line to SCR
OLL
130 NEXT I
200 FOR K=1 TO LEN A$
210 LET C=CODE A$(K)
220 IF C<128 THEN GO TO 250
230 LET M$=CHR$ (C-128)
240 LET C=0
250 FOR L=0 TO 7
260 LET P=PEEK (7680+C*8+L)
270 LET U=128
280 FOR J=0 TO 7
290 IF P<U THEN GO TO 320
300 PLOT 8*(K-1)+J,10-L
305 GO SUB 2000
310 LET P=P-U
320 LET U=U/2
330 NEXT J
340 NEXT L
350 NEXT K
360 GO TO 100
1000 FOR N=S TO LEN B$
1010 IF B$(N)=" " THEN GO TO 105
0
1020 NEXT N
1050 LET A$=B$(S TO N-1)
1060 LET S=N+1
1070 RETURN
2000 IF N<LEN B$-1 THEN LET G=4
2010 IF N>=LEN B$-1 THEN LET S=1
2020 IF N>=LEN B$-1 THEN LET G=2
1
2030 RETURN
9998 SAVE "BIG SCROLL"
9999 RUN
```

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Timex / Sinclair Owners...

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